Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

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R 031300Z JUN 75 FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6199 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, EG. IT, SA

SUBJECT: MINTOFF VISIT TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA

REF: VALLETTA 0589

- 1. PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT JUNE 2 CONERNING HIS MAY 29-JUNE 1 TRIP TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. TEST OF MINTOFF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:
- 2. "FROM THURSDAY, MAY 29 TILL SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1975,
 A MALTESE DELEGATION COMPOSED OF GEORGE BORG CARDONA, A
 SENIOR OFFICIAL AT THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT; JOE CAMILLERI,
 SECRETARY OF THE CABINET; EDGAR MIZZI, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
 MYSELF, VISITED CAIRO AND RIYADH.

"IN CAIRO THE MALTESE DELEGATION HAD TALKS WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE EGYPTIAN ARAB REPUBLIC,
MAMDOUH SALEM, AND OTHER MINISTERS. THE TALKS WERE
CONCERNED MAINLY WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, AND HOW THEY CAN BE STRENGTHENED, AND
THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THE
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MIDDLE EAST AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY THE TWO COUNTRIES

TO HELP STRENGTHEN PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

"THE MALTESE DELEGATION ALSO HAD A MEETING WITH MOHAMED EL-FARRA, VICE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. AT THIS MEETING WAYS WERE CONSIDERED FOR GREATER COOPERATION IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERE BETWEEN MALTA AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES JOINTLY.

"IN RIYADH THE MALTESE DELEGATION WAS WELCOMED BY KING KHALID IBN ABDUL AZIZ AND PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE ALSO THE CROWN PRINCE AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, PRINCE FAHD IBN ABDUL AZIZ AND OTHER MINISTERS. IN THE TALKS BETWEEN THE KING OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE MALTESE DELEGATION RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, DURING LAST YEAR, WERE CONSIDERED AND METHODS AND TERMS WERE AGREED ON FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS USEFUL TO MALTA IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WAS CONSIDERED AS WELL AS THE POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY THE TWO COUNTRIES N THE HOPE OF STRENGTHENING PROSPECTS OF A SOUND PEACE IN THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"ON THE SAME MEETINGS ON THE SAME SUBJECT, BUT IN GREATER DETAIL, WERE HELD WITH MINISTERS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE.

"ON ARRIVAL IN ROME THE DLEGATION HAD OTHER TALKS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DOTTOR MICHELE PRINCIPE WHO RECENTLY, MANY OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES IN MALTA WERE HAPPY TO LEARN, WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAI.

"THE MALTESE DELEGATION RETURNED TO MALTA YESTERDAY AT MIDNIGHT".

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING MINTOFF'S REPORT OPPOSITION NATIONALIST PARTY SPOKESMEN ASKED FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI OFFICIALS. MINTOFF REFUSED TO GO BEYOND THE GENERALITIES IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, DESPITE OPPOSITION NEEDLING. WIGGINS

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